

THE HISTORY OF THE LANE MEDICAL LIBRARY

1912 - 1967

A Thesis

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED

The Lane Medical Library, located at the Stanford Medical Center on the campus of the Stanford University, is one of the two largest medical libraries in California.¹ The role of the library has been threefold. One of its main functions is to serve students in the health sciences who need more than textbooks to supplement their studies. It is of vital importance to medical researchers who desire to keep abreast of the latest advancement in scientific discoveries and methods. It has contributed to the care of patients in the community by making its resources accessible to physicians in the area.²

¹American Library Directory, (twenty-fifth edition; New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1967), p. 117.

²"A Storehouse to Serve Humanity," The Healing Arts; A Report from Stanford Medical Center, Autumn, 1963. (Palo Alto, California: News Bureau, Stanford Medical Center, 1963).

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study to trace the development and growth of the Lane Medical Library from 1912 to 1966.

Importance of the study. Those who use the medical library realize its importance, but they may know little of the problems and amount of work connected with its growth and maintenance. To date, no complete history of the Lane Medical Library has been written. This thesis was an attempt to give an insight into the development of the library, in order that the services it renders may be fully appreciated. It also attempted to call to the attention of historians and persons interested in the history of medicine the collection on the history of medicine and allied sciences which the library maintains. Finally, this study hoped to add a chapter to the history of medical libraries of California.

Limitations of the study. This study was limited to the years from 1912 to 1967. Because of the nature of this study, it was necessary to mention briefly the union of the Cooper Medical School of San Francisco with Stanford University

and to include the period prior to the inception of the Lane Medical Library in 1912.

II. THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED

The sources of information used. The sources used in this study have been, for the most part, manuscripts, records and unpublished articles pertaining to the history of the Lane Medical Library. The Minutes of the Board of Directors, the faculty's minutes, and the Annual Reports of the Presidents, all of Cooper Medical College, have been most valuable for the chapters dealing with the historical background of the medical college, and the library prior to 1912. For the chapters on the Lane Medical Library after 1912, the Annual Reports of the Directors of Stanford University Libraries and library's own annual reports were of much help. Information on the organization and administration of the library for the past seven years was obtained from annual reports of the library as well as from personal interview with the head librarian. Annual announcements of the Medical School and addresses concerning the Lane Medical Library were also used.

III. ORGANIZATION OF REMAINDER OF THE THESIS

The succeeding chapters of the thesis presented an account of the historical background of the Medical School, traced the growth and development of the Lane Medical Library, focused on the library's administration and organization, and provided a brief summary of factors which influenced its growth.

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COOPER MEDICAL COLLEGE AND ITS UNION WITH STANFORD UNIVERSITY

The founding of the Cooper Medical College was due to the efforts of two men, Levi Cooper Lane and his uncle, Elias Samuel Cooper, for whom the College was named in 1882.

The Medical Department of the University of Pacific.

The first medical school on the Pacific Coast was established by Elias Samuel Cooper. In 1858, he gathered together a group of physicians and set out to organize a medical school in San Francisco. In order to have the authority for granting of degrees in medicine, the school obtained a charter from the University of Pacific, and thus became the Medical Department of the University.¹ The University of Pacific was a Methodist Episcopalian college, which was established in 1851 in the city of Santa Clara. It was later moved to Stockton, and has remained there since.

¹Robert G. Whitfield, "Historical Development of the Stanford School of Medicine," (unpublished Master's thesis, Stanford University, Stanford, 1949), p. 28.

The formal opening of the medical department was held on May 6, 1859 and in September of the same year the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on two graduates. Among the original group of faculty were Drs. A. J. Bowie, Isaac Rowell, J. F. Morse, R. Beverly Cole and Henry Gibbons, Sr.² Dr. Levi Cooper Lane did not join his uncle's faculty until after his resignation from the navy in 1859.³

The newly established medical school encountered much criticism and opposition. State endowment for the medical school was attempted in the California Assembly of 1859, and it failed.⁴ The school was denounced by Editor Wooster of the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal. Wooster felt that a medical college in California was not yet needed, for there was no fund for endowment and no students to attend the lectures. He continued his criticism on the character and

²Henry Harris, California's Medical Story (San Francisco: J. W. Stacey, 1932, p. 133.

³Emmet Rixford, "Levi Cooper Lane," Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, LVI (February, 1933), p. 247.

⁴Harris, op. cit., p. 132.

ability of Dr. Cooper and his faculty.⁵ However, the school persevered, and by the end of its second session, Dr. Cooper wrote with confidence in the San Francisco Medical Press the following:

Though the Faculty of the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific has met with a degree of unjust opposition, almost unparalleled in the history of new medical schools, probably none other ever complained or faltered less. Not two years have elapsed since the opening ceremonies were held, publicly inaugurating the school. . . . There is hardly an enemy of the school who would dare to risk his reputation as a man of sense, by stating that he does not believe to be a permanent institution.⁶

Between the years 1859 - 1864, twenty-eight students graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the medical department, and many of them took prominent places in the medical profession of California. The educational standard of the school was high, and emphasis was placed on quality rather than quantity.⁷

⁵D. Wooster, "Editor's Table," Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, II (1895), pp. 496-498.

⁶Elias S. Cooper, "Editor's Table," San Francisco Medical Press, (October, 1860), pp. 236-239.

⁷Whitfield, op. cit., p. 48.

After the death of Dr. Cooper in 1862, various difficulties and confusion occurred in the school because of a lack of leadership. In the meantime, Dr. Hubert H. Toland was forming a new medical school in San Francisco. The University of Pacific decided that two schools could not be sustained, so rather than lower the standard of medical education, the activities of its medical department were ceased in 1894. Students of the department were transferred to Toland Medical College. The newly established college invited Dr. Lane and Dr. Gibbons, Sr. to join the faculty, and the invitation was accepted.⁸

Medical College of the Pacific. In 1870, after four years at Toland, Dr. Lane and Dr. Gibbons resigned from the faculty. With a strong desire to revive Dr. Cooper's old school, they set forth to reorganize a medical school with many of its former faculty. The school was situated at Geary and Stockton. In 1872, the school was named the Medical College of the Pacific, and was affiliated with the University City

⁸Hans Barkan, "Cooper Medical College, Founded by Levi Cooper Lane; An Historical Sketch," Stanford Medical Bulletin, XII (August, 1954), p. 151.



Fig. 1. Cooper Medical College. Original building, ca. 1892.

College, a Presbyterian school now defunct.⁹ During the first year of its inception, the medical college obtained the privilege of giving clinical instruction in the San Francisco City and County Hospital. The school flourished, and in 1877, it moved to more spacious quarters on Haight Street near Octavia, where it remained until 1882.¹⁰

Cooper Medical College. Meanwhile, Dr. Lane, without the knowledge of his associates, erected a college building at the corner of Sacramento and Webster. The purchase of the property and the construction of the building came entirely from his own funds.¹¹ It was completed in the Fall of 1882. Dr. Lane then invited the faculty of the Medical College of the Pacific to join him in forming a new medical school. The college was to be known as the Cooper Medical College in honour of his uncle, Dr. Elias Samuel Cooper. The faculty

⁹Annual Announcement of the Medical College of the Pacific, Being the Medical Department of the University (City) College. (San Francisco: J. F. Brown, 1872), pp. 1-14.

¹⁰Emmet Rixford, "History of the Cooper Medical College," Address at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 11.

¹¹Barkan, op. cit., p. 156.

accepted the invitation, and the new college was founded and incorporated under California's law.¹² The only two conditions on which Dr. Lane deeded the property and the building to the college were that the building was to be used as an institution of medical education, and that a series of public lectures called the "Lane Popular Lectures" be given. The objective of the lectures was to disseminate medical knowledge to the laymen. They were to be held annually with no charge for admission.¹³ These lectures were not accepted by some physicians, for at that time they still preferred to keep their profession a mystery to their patients. However, the lectures were well received by the general public, and to this day they are still being offered by the Stanford School of Medicine.¹⁴

The new college building was soundly planned and built. It was used by the Stanford School of Medicine until 1959.

¹²Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, October 14, 1882.

¹³Cooper Medical College Announcement, 1884. (San Francisco: Alta Book and Job Printing House, 1884), p. 9.

¹⁴Emmet Rixford, "Levi Cooper Lane," Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, LVI (February, 1933), p. 247.

The building stood five stories high. The first floor consisted of the Morse Dispensary, general and special clinics, a pharmacy, and waiting rooms for the public. Lecture rooms, private laboratories, and professors' rooms were located on the second and third levels. The library, periodical room, and anatomical and pathological museum were on the fourth floor. The fifth level consisted of dissecting rooms, microscope room, and students' laboratory.¹⁵

In 1890, Dr. Lane and Captain James McDonald, a friend of the late Dr. Cooper, each donated a piece of property to the college. The entire property of the College now covered two-thirds of a block.¹⁶ On a part of this land, Dr. Lane erected another building adjoining the original college building. The new structure was similar in size to the former. It contained additional lecture rooms, pathological and chemical laboratories, and a large public lecture hall, the Lane Hall, which had a capacity of a thousand seats.¹⁷

¹⁵Cooper Medical College Announcement, op. cit., p. 8.

¹⁶Barkan, op. cit., p. 155.

¹⁷Cooper Medical College Announcement, 1893. (San Francisco: W. A. Woodward & Co., Printers, 1893), p. 5.

A hospital, adjacent to the college was added during 1893 and 1894. It contained 200 beds and was formally dedicated on January 2, 1895.¹⁸ The Lane Hospital, named in honor of Dr. Lane's wife, was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Lane, Captain James McDonald, Claus Spreckels, the Faculty of the College and others.¹⁹ The purpose of the hospital was to furnish clinical cases for the instruction of the students of Cooper College.

In the same year, Dr. Lane inaugurated a course of medical lectures, the Lane Medical Lectures, to be given annually by eminent medical and scientific men. These lectures were directed to medical students and physicians to assist them in keeping abreast with new medical knowledge. William Macewen, Professor of Surgery at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, gave the first course in the summer of 1896. The honorarium for the lecturer was \$2,000 and ten lectures were to be given each year. Dr. Lane had intended

¹⁸Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, January 28, 1895.

¹⁹Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, December 28, 1894.

to set aside a sum of money for the endowment of the lectures, but the lack of funds forced him to delay his plan. Instead, he paid the lecturer annually out of his own pocket. After his death and that of Mrs. Lane, Dr. C. N. Ellinwood, who was the President of the College at that time, paid for the lectures for three years. The course ceased after Dr. Ellinwood refused to continue payment or to set aside a sum for endowment of the lectures. It was revived again after the union of the Cooper Medical College with Stanford University, and an endowment of \$25,000 was set aside for the lectures; thus the Lane Lectures have continued to the present.²⁰

Prior to 1898, the faculty of Cooper Medical College received no monetary compensation for the time they spent as instructors and lecturers. Teaching in the college was supplemental to their private practices of medicine and surgery. Through the efforts of Drs. Adolph Barkan and Joseph O. Hirschfelder, Dr. William Ophuls was elected the first salaried Professor of Pathology in 1898.²¹ In 1900,

²⁰Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, August 26, 1895.

²¹Annual Report of the President of Cooper Medical College, December 26, 1898.

W. E. Garrey became a paid Professor of Physiology, who devoted his time entirely to his teaching profession.²² These events marked a new era in Cooper College. Enormous expenses were incurred by the college as it continued to maintain and improve its clinical facilities and laboratories, together with new plans of hiring salaried professors. It was evident that new sources of financial support were needed. Dr. Levi Cooper Lane, who earlier had been opposed to the union of his college with any institutions, soon realized that his college would be more secured if united with Stanford University. Just before his death, Dr. Lane made provisions for his trustees to exercise their judgment in regard to the future of Cooper Medical College.²³

Union with Leland Stanford Junior University. The possibility of a union between Leland Stanford Junior University and Cooper Medical College was discussed in 1901. On

²²Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, July 28, 1900.

²³Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, January 15, 1902.

October of the same year, Dr. Jordan, the first President of Stanford University wrote:

. . . As to the possibilities of organic union, should this be considered desirable by the Cooper Medical College, I may say that we would strongly favor it if it were practicable . . . Our main difficulty is this: We are not ready to incur the expense of a salaried faculty; we do not think it is wise to begin without one.²⁴

After Dr. Lane's death on February 9, 1902, correspondence concerning the affiliation of the two schools continued between Dr. Jordan and the authorities of Cooper Medical College. When Dr. Jordan presented a tentative agreement to the Stanford Academic Council, the Council decided on the following:

In the judgement of this committee, as the proposed arrangement involves relations and consequences beyond the control of Stanford University, it is not expedient to deviate from the policy of the University to form an affiliation or alliance with any institution not an integral part of Stanford University; nor does it seem wise to take any action which might in any degree tend to embarrass the future policy of this University.²⁵

²⁴Orrin L. Elliott, Stanford University, The First Twenty-Five Years. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1937), p. 536.

²⁵Ibid. (From the Report of the Committee to Dr. Jordan, December 10, 1902).

At the meantime, the authorities of Cooper College realized that a large amount of Mrs. Lane's fortune would not be available to the college; therefore, instead of a mere affiliation, they now offered a complete transfer of the college to Stanford University. On January 30, 1906, Dr. Jordan wrote the following to Stanford Trustee Davis:

I am convinced that it is for the general interests of education that we should take charge of the Cooper Medical College, if it can be offered to us without any condition whatever except that we give instruction in medicine.²⁶

In September of 1907, Dr. Jordan recommended to the Trustees that they accept the Cooper offer. On January 1, 1908, the Board of Trustees of Stanford University accepted the properties of the Medical College from Cooper authorities. The only condition requested by the Cooper College was that the property would be used for purposes of educating young men and women to be practitioners of medicine and that the name of Dr. Lane be suitably commemorated.²⁷ Under the arrangements agreed upon, Cooper Medical College was to continue offering

²⁶Ibid., p. 537.

²⁷^aFifth Annual Report of the President of the University for the Year Ending July 31, 1908, p. 17.

instruction until all of its students graduated. It was not until July 1, 1912 that complete control of the College and the Lane Hospital was transferred to the Trustees of Stanford University.²⁸ To this day, the diploma of the graduates of the School of Medicine of Leland Stanford Junior University still bears the words, "Founded as Cooper College by Levi Cooper Lane."²⁹

²⁸Elliott, op. cit., p. 541.

²⁹Minutes of the Board of Directors of Cooper Medical College, February 27, 1908.

CHAPTER III

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY PRIOR TO 1912

There were attempts made as early as 1883 by members of the faculty of the Cooper Medical College to bring together a collection of medical books for the use of its students. The initial fund set aside informally for the purchase of books for the College library was the result of the following resolution concerning the attendance at the Faculty meetings:

. . . Anyone under sixty years of age and a resident of this city, who shall absent himself from the Faculty meetings, except for sickness, shall be fined five dollars, which sum shall be appropriated to the purchase of books for the library.¹

In the early years of the College, a few books were bought for the library, but the majority of them were contributions from the faculty's private libraries. During the faculty meeting on February 29, 1884, Dr. Joseph Hirschfelder moved that an appropriation of \$2,000 from the funds of the College be used for the purchase of a library. However, the motion was not immediately approved, but instead, the first

¹Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, September 28, 1883.

Library Committee was appointed to study the probable cost of books which were needed by the College.² The Library Committee was later given the power in the supervision of the library, the purchase of the books, and its chairman was the librarian in charge of the library.³ On December 12, 1884, Dr. Johnston, the Chairman of the Library Committee, reported that the College library consisted of 334 volumes, of which 134 were donated and 200 were standard medical works purchased by the College at an outlay of about \$906.00. In that same year, Dr. A. S. Ferris donated ninety-six volumes to the library, and among them about twenty-eight volumes were rare books printed in the eighteenth century.⁴

With no regularly attending librarian, the books were neither properly arranged nor cared for. The faculty then requested the Library Committee to formulate a plan for the better preservation of the books in the library. On May 30,

²Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, February 29, 1884.

³Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, February 28, 1891.

⁴Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, December 12, 1884.

1890, it was agreed upon that the library should be locked until some plan could be adopted which would prevent the books from disappearing from the library. In the report of the Committee in October of that year, Dr. Johnston stated that the library comprised 776 volumes, and since the opening of the College in 1882, thirty-two books were lost.⁵

The first library of the College was described by Dr. Emmet Rixford, a graduate of the Cooper Medical College in the year 1891 who later joined the faculty, as follows:

A room on the fourth floor, lined with almost empty book cases . . . It was furnished with two large green oil cloth covered tables on which rested in tumbled disorder, various out of date text books, Sajous Annual, a few odd numbers of current periodicals and a decrepit Webster's dictionary. In one of the cases was a sheep-bound copy of the British Encyclopedia, in another a considerable series of the New Sydenham Society publications . . . purchased by the late Dr. Samuel O. L. Potter for the College, but the books had such a habit of disappearing that the then librarian, Dr. Chas. H. Steele, Professor of Media and Therapeutics, locked up the better books in the cases and the inquiring students had to get the key from the janitor to look at any of them.⁶

⁵Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, May 30, 1890; Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, October 31, 1890.

⁶Emmet Rixford, "Intimate History of Lane Medical Library," San Francisco County Medical Society Bulletin, IV (November, 1931), p. 19.

The volumes in the library increased gradually, and by July of 1891, Dr. Steele reported that the library numbered more than 1,000 volumes and only one book was missing during that year. At that time the Committee recommended to the faculty that the library should render services to the medical profession of California, and should be established as a public medical library. This plan was put under consideration by the faculty, but it did not materialize until nine years later. On January 19, 1901, the faculty adopted the resolution, and the library of the Cooper College thus became a public medical library. The physicians in San Francisco and its vicinities were allowed the privilege of borrowing books and the use of the college library upon payment of an annual fee of five dollars.⁷

According to Dr. Emmet Rixford, it was a gift to the college library from the graduating class of 1891, which called to the attention of the faculty the pressing need for the College to establish a working library for its students.

⁷Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, July 31, 1891; Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, January 19, 1901.

It had been the tradition among the students of each graduating class to give a parting gift to the head custodian of the College. Gifts such as a gold watch, a diamond ring, or an armchair had been given to the custodian. However, when the time came for the class of 1891 to decide on a gift, Dr. Rixford recounted that,

. . . some of us conceived the revolutionary idea that it would be more fitting for our class, of which we felt singularly and justly proud, to inaugurate the custom of presenting to the library a set of books, perhaps some work of reference. The plan naturally met with much resistance on the part of the men who had received favors from the presiding janitor. After much debate we finally arrived at a compromise -- we doubled the amount of the usual subscription that we might carry out both these worthy objects . . . every member of the class paid his subscription and the money was sufficient to purchase a well known 'Atlas of Skin Diseases' for the library and a handsome ring for the janitor. Of course the names of the members of the class were inscribed in the Atlas on a fly leaf . . . The incident had a far greater influence toward creation of a college library than any of us students could have possibly foreseen . . .⁸

In 1892, Dr. Emmet Rixford joined the faculty of the Cooper College as an assistant to the Chair of Surgery. In

⁸Emmet Rixford, "Brief Account of the History of the Lane Medical Library," Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 7.

June of 1895, he was appointed by the faculty as the Chairman of the Library Committee, with the Presidents of Senior and of the Junior Class as its members.⁹ Lewis W. Allen, then a senior medical student, became Dr. Rixford's assistant in the library. Together they began a book catalog of the library. The books were listed under the subject with which they dealt, and in turn the subject headings were arranged alphabetically.¹⁰ Dr. Rixford realized the vital importance of a good library, and took up the task of being the librarian of the College with dedication and zeal. He aroused faculty's interest in the library and from time to time,

. . . members of the faculty were importuned to donate their journals -- old and new -- textbooks, pamphlets, etc. Dr. B. Barkan gave me ten dollars to start some subscriptions and Dr. Joseph O. Hirschfelder promptly duplicated it; this was the first money received by the library. Soon Dr. Barkan gave forty dollars more which was similarly duplicated by Dr. Hirschfelder, and later each gave a hundred dollars.¹¹

⁹Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, October, 1892; Minutes of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College, June 17, 1895.

¹⁰Library Catalogue; Cooper Medical College (MSS in the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University).

¹¹Emmet Rixford, "Intimate History of Lane Medical Library," San Francisco County Medical Bulletin, IV (November, 1931), p. 19.

The volume of the Cooper College library enlarged steadily under the guidance of Dr. Rixford. Aside from financial aids from individuals and donations from private libraries, a system of exchanges with medical libraries elsewhere was inaugurated. A number of medical libraries in the East, notably the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, and the Boston Medical Library, were generous in their material assistance. The Library of the Surgeon General's Office, which contained the largest collection of medical literature in the United States, received a vast quantity of duplicate materials. The librarians of struggling libraries were permitted to obtain what they needed from the duplicates. Dr. Rixford related one of his visits to that library:

In the library of the Surgeon General's Office, I met Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher. They were interested in our efforts at developing a library in Cooper College, and gave me carte blanche to select books from the collection of duplicates in the basement. I was tempted to take the whole collection, because our library at that time was so small that there were little chance of duplication, and I have ever since regretted that my modesty curtailed my enthusiasm, for I took only a dozen or so large cases of books, which on their arrival in San Francisco made a very important addition to the college library.¹²

¹²Emmet Rixford, "Then and Now - Personal Recollections," Western Journal of Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, XL (1933), pp. 475-476.

The College annual announcement in 1896 reported that during the past year the library was completely reorganized, alterations in the management were made and improvements added. There were over a thousand volumes on the shelves, besides a considerable number of bound volumes of periodicals. The entire collection was divided broadly into subjects. A card catalog was prepared for the library, in which every book and articles of importance were entered under the name of the author, and also under specific subject. The catalog also provided a number of cross-references to aid students in their search for materials under certain topics. A book of accessions was also kept by the library in which was entered the author's name, title, name of the donor, and the imprint of each volume. Beginning in 1896, for the first time in the history of the library, students were granted the privilege of checking books out overnight, thus making the library a circulating one. In order to be eligible for this privilege, each student was required to deposit ten dollars as a library fee with the college custodian. The fee was refundable to the students when they severed their connection

with the College. The amount was later reduced to five dollars.¹³

In 1897 the faculty of the Cooper College engaged the first salaried library assistant. With the regular attendance of an assistant, it was possible for the library to be opened daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. David Belfrage, an old Scotchman, was the first recorded assistant. Though technically a custodian, he took care of the college library and had no other duties outside of it. The early correspondence of the library indicated that Belfrage was also in charge of the clerical work of the library, since many of the inquiries for exchanges of journals, and for the annual announcement of the College were addressed directly to him. His salary was around twenty-five dollars a month, and it was not until July of 1912 that he ended his eighteen years of service for the library.¹⁴

¹³Annual Announcement of the Cooper Medical College Session of 1896. (San Francisco: W. A. Woodward & Co., 1896), p. 7.

¹⁴Annual Announcement of the Cooper Medical College, Session of 1897. (San Francisco: W. A. Woodward & Co., 1897), p. 7; Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1911-1912. (MSS in the Lane Library at Stanford University); Luis Alvarez and Walter C. Alvarez, "Remembrances of Student Days at Cooper College," Recollections of Cooper Medical College, 1883-1905. (Stanford: Stanford Medical School).

Under the supervision of Dr. Rixford, the library also aimed to collect all the available printed materials on the medical profession of the Pacific Coast, with the object that the materials might someday be of value, if a comprehensive history of the medical profession of this area was to be written. Aside from a few medical journals, much of the information appeared in pamphlet form. The library was able to secure all of the medical journals of California together with a mass of informative pamphlets and other ephemera. By 1901, it had accumulated about 5,000 pamphlets and they were arranged alphabetically in the library.¹⁵

Since the inception of the library, according to Dr. Rixford, the President of the College, Dr. Levi Cooper Lane, paid little attention to the library aside from occasional donations of a few volumes. One evening in 1898, to the surprise of Dr. Rixford, he was called to the house of Dr. and Mrs. Levi Cooper Lane, and as he recalled the event:

¹⁵Annual Announcement of the Cooper Medical College, Session of 1901. (San Francisco: W. A. Woodward and Co., 1901), p. 14; Emmet Rixford, "Brief Account of the History of the Lane Medical Library," Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 8.

My astonishment knew no bounds when he [Dr. Lane] announced that he and Mrs. Lane had just made their wills and wanted me to be one of the witnesses thereto. Dr. Lane then gave me a resume of the provisions of their wills, saying that it was their desire that the residue of their property should be devoted to the purposes of a medical library.¹⁶

Dr. Lane died on February 9, 1902, leaving his entire estate to his wife. Mrs. Lane survived her husband only six months and died on August 9, 1902. In her will, Mrs. Lane bequeathed one-third of her estate to Cooper College for the purpose of founding a library to be called the Levi Cooper Lane Library of Medicine and Surgery. During that time under the law of the State of California, only one-third of an estate could be conveyed by will for charitable purposes or to a corporation, therefore, the remaining two-thirds of the estate were given to the then President of the Cooper Medical College, Dr. E. N. Ellinwood.¹⁷

In September of 1902, the President of the College was given the authority by the Board of Directors to purchase two

¹⁶Emmet Rixford, "Brief Account of the History of the Lane Medical Library," Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 8.

¹⁷Ibid.

lots on the southeast corner of Sacramento and Webster Street, as a possible site for the medical library. At the same time, Dr. Rixford was given custody of Dr. Lane's private library, which was later incorporated with the college library.¹⁸ The private library of Dr. Lane consisted of 2,000 volumes, many of which were classics in the field of medicine, and some were of historical value.¹⁹

The site for the library was purchased at the cost of \$15,811.59 in 1903. In September of the same year, the Lane Medical Library Fund was established, and the following amendment to the bylaws of the Cooper Medical College was adopted:

. . . Into said fund shall be paid all the proceeds arising from the sale of the properties bequeathed to this college by Pauline C. Lane; . . . Out of said fund shall be paid all moneys necessary for the purchase of a site for a library building; for the construction of a library building on said site; for the fitting up, furnishing and appointment of said building; for the

¹⁸ Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, September 18, 1902 and March 7, 1904.

¹⁹ Emmet Rixford, "Brief Account of the History of the Lane Medical Library," Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 9.

purchase of books and periodicals for the library to be housed in said building; and such money for maintenance . . .²⁰

On August 29, 1906, by resolution of the Directors of Cooper Medical College, the Levi Cooper Lane Library of Medicine and Surgery was formally established.²¹ With comprehensive plans for the library and its building satisfactorily drawn up, and the property in the possession of the College, the construction of the building was ready to commence. However, it was during this time that the Directors of the College were informed that the remaining two thirds of Mrs. Lane estate bequeathed to the President of the College would not be available for endowment of the library. Even though the President had indicated earlier that the funds would be available to the College library, he had since then changed his mind and considered the estate a personal gift. This put a halt to the construction of the library at that time.²²

²⁰Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, September 28, 1903.

²¹Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, August 29, 1906.

²²Emmet Rixford, "Brief Account of the History of the Lane Medical Library," Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 9.

In the meantime, the librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine had written to Dr. Rixford informing him that the former Library of the New York Hospital had been given to the Academy, and that therefore, they had a collection of duplicates which they would like to sell. The collection consisted of approximately 28,000 volumes, among which were complete sets of important medical journals. In the hope of increasing the collection of the college library, the President of the College negotiated with Dr. Abraham Jocabi of the New York Academy of Medicine the purchase price and the shipment of the collection to San Francisco.²³ The Directors of Cooper College and the Trustees of the New York Academy of Medicine finally agreed on the price of \$6,168.00 for the purchase of the collection.²⁴

The Lane Library, prior to this acquisition, consisted of some 8,000 volumes, and with the new additions the volumes numbered around 35,000. Appropriate housing for this large

²³Correspondence between the President of Cooper Medical College and Dr. A. Jocabi of New York Academy of Medicine, 1906 (MSS in the Lane Library, Stanford University).

²⁴Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, July 16, 1907.

collection was necessary. The original room set aside for the library could not accommodate the entire collection, so Dr. Rixford was authorized to put in suitable shelving place in the new stack room.²⁵ In the President's annual report of 1907, Dr. Edward R. Taylor briefly described the library and its collection:

. . . necessarily we have many duplicates and as we lack somewhat in shelf room, it has been thought wise to box some of these duplicates for the time being. To house this large library the general lecture room was divided horizontally, the lower half being devoted to housing the books on shelves and the upper half was preserved for classroom purposes. In the matter of planning and supervising the construction of the shelves, and of arranging in the proper order the books upon their shelves, and in fact in the matter of everything connected with appropriate housing of the library, and with the rearrangement of the reading rooms, the services of Dr. Emmet Rixford was invaluable. To him the college owes a great debt . . .²⁶

The collection from the New York Academy of Medicine was put into 269 cases, weighing a total of 81,000 pounds. They were sent to San Francisco by freighter. On the arrival

²⁵Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, February 20, 1907.

²⁶Annual Report of the President of Cooper Medical College, August 12, 1907.

of the books, the Library Committee hired two Philippino boys to put the books and journals on the shelves. No library staff was appointed to supervise the work. The boys unloaded the journals on the shelves without arranging them in any sequence. When Dr. Rixford discovered the chaotic state in which the journals were shelved he was much concerned. With the assistance of Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dr. Rixford spent the following months arranging the journals in alphabetical order. The two doctors went daily to the library after their day's work was done and remained there for an hour or more. The arranging and collection of periodicals took them about three months to complete.²⁷ Dr. Alvarez was granted one-hundred dollars by the directors of the College for the services he rendered to the library during those months.²⁸

On August 10, 1908, the Board of Directors adopted the resolutions in regard to the conveyance of all the properties

²⁷Alvarez, loc. cit.

²⁸Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, December 28, 1906.

of Cooper Medical College to Stanford University and the union of the two colleges. On April 25, 1910 it was decided that the Lane Medical Library be formally transferred to Stanford University on August 1, 1910.²⁹ The responsibility of the management of the library was then assumed by Mr. George Clark, the librarian of the Stanford University. The Board of Trustees of Stanford University invested in the librarian the authority to extend privileges of withdrawal of books, and to purchase, sell, or exchange books and journals of the library.³⁰

At the time of the transfer of the Lane Medical Library to Stanford University, the library comprised approximately 35,000 volumes. It was the largest medical library west of Chicago, and the seventh largest in the United States. The library was subscribing regularly to 135 medical journals. Aside from the acquisition from the New York Academy of Medicine in 1906, because of lack of funds little had been added

²⁹Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, August 10, 1908; and April 25, 1910.

³⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Stanford University, October 3, 1910.

to the library's collection since then. For the same reason, many of the important sets of medical journals in the library were unbound, and the card catalog was incomplete. However, there was a fairly complete catalog of the periodicals in the library which was due to the personal efforts of Dr. Rixford. The library was spending around \$1,487.00 for the subscription of journals and \$335.00 for textbooks annually. As a result of limited funds and space in the library, students of the medical college were greatly handicapped in their work, as a large portion of the books and periodicals contained in the library was inaccessible to them.³¹

In 1911, the Board of Trustees of Stanford University set aside a sum of \$80,000 for the construction of a library building. However, this amount was insufficient for the erection of a suitable library building on the purchased site at Sacramento and Webster Street. The Directors of Cooper College on learning this immediately donated the necessary \$20,000 to Stanford, in order that contemplated

³¹Report of the Library Committee of the Medical Faculty, August 22, 1910 (MSS in the Lane Library at Stanford University).

Lane Medical Library building could be built on the original site purchased in 1903.³² This sum enabled the construction of the library to begin in that year.

On August 11, 1911, Dr. Adolph Barkan informed the Board of Directors of Cooper College that he had given the Trustees of Stanford University a sum of \$5,000. It was his intention that this amount, together with an earlier endowment of \$5,000, known as the Teachers' Fund which he had set up and was no longer of use, be utilized as an endowment for a section of the Lane Medical Library devoted to ophthalmology and otology.³³ The Trustees accepted the gift and a section of the library was named in Dr. Barkan's honor.

Miss Frances James, the assistant librarian under the direction of Mr. George Clark, had been in charge of the Lane Library since it came under the control of Stanford University. In her report for the year 1911, she stated that during that year the library had purchased 365 volumes and had received

³²Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, June 2, 1911.

³³Directors Minutes of Cooper Medical College, August 11, 1911.

466 volumes from donations. The library was receiving regularly 150 journals at that time. A list of the duplicate collections was compiled and a similar list was also made of the books in the main collection. The latter was for the purpose of obtaining all the available Library of Congress cards for cataloging the books. The problem of missing books and journals was serious in the library, and Miss James concluded her report by hoping that with the move of the medical library to the new building this problem might be remedied.³⁴

³⁴Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1911-1912. (MSS in Lane Library at Stanford University).



Fig. 2. Lane Medical Library, San Francisco.

CHAPTER IV

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANE LIBRARY, 1912 - 1959

The Lane Medical Library moved from its old quarters in the medical college building to the new library building at Sacramento and Webster Street between August 25th and September 3rd of 1912. The library was formally dedicated two months later on November 3, 1912. At the ceremony, addresses were given by Mr. Timothy Hopkins, President of the Board of Trustees of Stanford University, by Dr. Emmet Rixford, Professor of Surgery, and by Dr. David Starr Jordan, President of the University.¹

The new structure, as previously stated, was erected from the funds left by Dr. Levi Cooper Lane for the purpose of establishing a medical library, and a donation of \$20,000 from the directors of the former Cooper College. The building was designed by Architect Albert Pissis of San Francisco.

¹Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), p. 5.

The handsome three and a half story building was constructed with Colusa sandstone and was entirely fireproof.²

The general reading room was furnished with broad reading tables and the walls were lined with open shelves of reference works. The room had a capacity for seating between sixty and seventy readers.³ On the east side of the reading room were mural paintings by Arthur F. Mathews of San Francisco, which occupied three large panels. These were gifts of Mrs. Henrietta Zeile. Professor Ray Lyman Wilbur described the paintings as follows:

. . . One panel shows beneath a spreading oak an Indian medicine man -- the primitive art of healing. Another is a mediaeval towered city with a red robed doctor reassuring a group of frightened people who cower before a woman with the 'evil eye.' In the central panel Urania, in starry blue, kneels with her hands upon a sphere, Therpischore with dancing girls embroidered on her cloak, ivy crowned Thalia, dark draped Melpomene, and their sister muses surround a white clad woman, Hygeia, and a child. The work is in Mathew's best style, the flesh tones of life size figures wonderful in the landscapes, beautiful with purple shadows, rolling hills and sunlit clouds.⁴

²Ibid., p. 29.

³Tenth Annual Report of the President of the University for the Year Ending July 31, 1913, p. 87.

⁴Addresses at the Dedication of the Lane Medical Library. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1912), pp. 29-30.

Reading rooms for the special collections were also provided for in the medical library building. The west portion of the mezzanine floor was devoted to the Barkan Library of Ophthalmology and Otology. There was space to accommodate twenty readers in that room. By 1914, more space was needed for this rapidly growing collection and the east mezzanine had to be used for the oto-laryngological section.⁵

The third level, at the time of the dedication of the library, was left in one room. In 1914, this room was used to house the Sutro Library, which belonged to the State of California. It was rented to the State Library for eight years. In the attic were stored the duplicates of the library collection. There were approximately 15,000 volumes in this collection, and the duplicates were frequently used for inter-library loan purposes.⁶

⁵Twelve Annual Report of the President of the University for the Year Ending July 31, 1915, p. 126.

⁶Frederick L. Reichert, "Lane Medical Library," Stanford Medical Alumni Association, II (November, 1938), p. 3; Annual Announcement of the Department of Medicine of Leland Stanford Junior University, 1913-1914, pp. 13-15.

The stack rooms of the library had shelving space for 60,000 volumes with room for future expansion. The rooms were fireproof, for no wood was used in the construction of this portion of the building. The shelves and doors were made of steel. Small reading tables were provided for the users in the stacks.⁷

The following policy of the Lane Medical Library appeared in the Announcement of the library printed in 1913:

The library is open to the public without charge. To bring it within the reach of physicians of the Pacific Coast and to aid in its extension and use, the Trustees invite the medical profession to become subscribers to it upon either of the subjoined plans . . .

The privileges of the Lane Medical Library will be extended to the profession and the public, subject to such rules and regulations as the Library Committee may prescribe, upon the following terms:

- i) The consultation and use of books in the library is free.
- ii) To those subscribers who may desire the privilege of withdrawing books from the library, \$5.00 per annum.
- iii) To those subscribers who may desire all the privileges of the library for life \$100.00 . . .⁸

The collection of the medical library had increased to nearly 40,000 volumes, and 325 periodicals were regularly

⁷Ibid.

⁸Announcement of Lane Medical Library, Stanford University, October 1, 1913, unpagged.



Fig. 3. General Reading Room of Lane Medical Library,
San Francisco.

subscribed by the library. Catalog cards of current medical accession were ordered from the Library of Congress and from the John Crerar Library in Chicago. Until the time of the transfer of the medical library to Stanford University no classification system was adopted; hence, the books were neither cataloged nor numbered. Since then the librarian of the Lane Library had engaged extra assistants in order that the old books would be cataloged and made accessible to the users. A modified Library of Congress Classification system was used for the library. The medical librarian explained why this particular scheme was adopted:

. . . All the bacteriological sciences are new and still in the making, for that reason I chose the Library of Congress Classification for this library. It is so recently finished and so admirably arranged . . . I rearranged the medical sciences under the letter of the alphabet retaining the numerical scheme of the Library of Congress as far as possible. The last letter was saved for miscellany -- for example our books in social sciences will take the regular class number H with a preliminary Z . . .⁹

To demonstrate that the Library of Congress Classification system was not too expanded for the collection of the Lane Library, the librarian further commented that:

⁹Description of the Library written in 1912 by the Librarian (MSS in the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University).

. . . The other day a doctor came to offer us some reprints on the throat if we proved sufficiently intelligent to handle them. I showed him the classification and he said, 'One number for tonsils when I have 5,000 articles on tonsils.' But fortunately there were some unassigned numbers before and after the one for the volley of possible tonsil affections . . .¹⁰

A large portion of the collection of the medical library was comprised of periodical literature, which then, as today, was a prime importance to the medical profession; therefore of the library's three floors of stacks two were filled with journals. The journals were arranged alphabetically by title in language divisions.¹¹

In 1913, the Library Committee of the Medical School set up regulations for the purchase of medical books for the library. It was decided that 45 per cent of the sum available annually for the purchase of books, exclusive of periodicals and of special endowment, should be expended by the librarian as requested by the heads of the five divisions of the medical faculty, and 55 per cent for the purpose of covering various subjects not included in the above divisions, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias and others. This was to enable

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

the Library Committee to build up sections of the library which were relatively deficient.¹²

Meanwhile the recataloging of the old books in the Lane Library progressed gradually. Miss Ophuls, the medical librarian, reported in 1919 that the sections on orthopedia and otolaryngology had been completely cataloged and a substantial beginning made in the genito-urinary section. The card catalog was completed for classes from general science to surgery, the class on ophthalmology, and about one fourth of the genito-urinary section.¹³

Once more the Lane Medical Library was indebted to Dr. Adolph Barkan. Dr. Barkan was a generous and constant benefactor of the library since its establishment. He joined the faculty of the Medical College of Pacific in 1872, and continued to offer his services to the Cooper Medical College and later the medical department of Stanford University until his retirement in 1912. In 1920, while traveling around

¹²Copy of the Rules for the Purchase of Medical Books for the Lane Medical Library, 1913. (MSS in the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University).

¹³Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1918-1919.

Europe, Dr. Barkan became interested in the history of medicine. It led him to the desire to add a section on the history of ophthalmology to the Barkan Library which he had earlier endowed to Lane Library. Dr. Barkan consulted with Professor Sudhoff, Director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the University of Leipzig, on this matter, and the latter advised him to establish a collection on the history of medicine in general, instead of in his own special fields of interest.¹⁴ In the following, Dr. Barkan expressed the reason why a section on the history of medicine should be added to the Lane Library:

I was impressed with the fact that the library was lacking in references and works of the old masters who had thought and observed in medicine and natural science many centuries before Christ's birth, through antiquity, medieval times, the time of the invention of the art of printing, and the Renaissance.

A revival of the study of the history of medicine had taken place, not only in the old medical centers of Europe, but also in the seats of learning in our eastern metropolis, through the efforts of Osler, Garrison, Cushing, Packard, Klebs and others. This was a study

¹⁴Charles D. O'Malley, "The Barkan Library of the History of Medicine," Stanford Medical Bulletin, IX (August, 1951), pp. 147-148.

which until very recently had been rather neglected in our western universities and medical societies.¹⁵

With the idea of starting a collection on the history of medicine in the Lane Library firmly established in his mind, Dr. Barkan wrote to Miss Louise Ophuls, librarian of the library,

. . . Collections of such deep interest that the thought has taken possession of me that Stanford and the Lane Library should agree to Dr. Sudhoff's plan, that is, if a beginning of such a collection has not yet been made. The material, from which, after it has taken hold of you one never can get away, is getting rarer and more expensive all the time. Propose Dr. Subhoff's idea of a departmental library for history of medicine . . . to Mr. Clark, Dr. Wilbur . . . and to the library committee . . . The use of such an undertaking, which would eventually lead to the teaching of this subject, dissertations on the subject is obvious. But even without help from outside our university should make a beginning if only a modest one. I am anxious to know if this idea will find favor, and a communication about the funds that might be available for the purpose would be welcome.¹⁶

On February 27, 1921, from St. Moritz, Switzerland, Dr. Barkan wrote that he had received a letter from President Wilbur informing him that an arrangement had been made with the

¹⁵Dr. Adolph Barkan, "Library of the History of Medicine Is a Notable Addition to Stanford Medical School," Stanford Illustrated Review (March, 1923), p. 295.

¹⁶Letter to Miss L. Ophuls from Dr. A. Barkan in 1920. (MSS in the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University).

Board of Trustees and the University librarian, Mr. George T. Clark, to set aside a sum of \$1,500 per year for three years to establish a fund for the purchase of books in the field of history of medicine. At the same time, Dr. Barkan informed Miss Ophuls that to the sum set aside by the University, which would amount to \$4,500, he would add \$3,000 to be given over a period of three years at \$1,000 per year.¹⁷

Dr. Barkan went through no end of troubles in order to purchase rare books for the beginning collection. As he described one of his book finding episodes:

. . . The next half hour found me perched on a clerk's high stool, copying the titles of books that might interest us. These were to be forwarded for the approval of Professor Sudhoff of Leipzig, our counsellor in the matter of antique books. If I wanted the books (rare, alluring; printed mostly in the 16th and 17th century), I had to do copying work: note subject, author, year of printing, edition, price and state of preservation: a week's work. It was worth while, for Professor Sudhoff telegraphed 'Buy all.' We became friends. A good beginning had been made for the future Department of the History of Medicine of Stanford University . . .

I put my nose in no end of shops and though I had strength to say 'no' to many of the offers of book made to me, I gathered together most valuable material; rare editions, particularly in the field of anatomy, in which

¹⁷Letter to Miss Ophuls from Dr. Barkan dated February 27, 1921. (MSS in the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University).

the Italians have ever done excellent work. From Leipzig, where we have a full card catalogue of our collection of works on the history of medicine, we extended our search to many a place in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and received the friendly help of colleagues and experts Thus we gradually gathered valuable material; resisting as we did, many a temptation laid our way by the antiquarian sharks of that world's book center. Beware! There are salted book mines as there are salted diamond fields. Our expert critic, Professor Sudhoff was ever watching, separating the wheat from the chaff.¹⁸

It was through Professor Sudhoff that Dr. Barkan learned of the library of Professor Ernst Seidel. Professor Seidel was a renowned physician and scholar in Meissen, Saxony. Because of advanced age and poor health, he wished to dispose of his library before his death. He was anxious to have his collection properly housed; therefore, it was not until he was assured that his library would become an integral part of Stanford University and not pass into mercantile channels that he could be persuaded to part with his lifelong possession.¹⁹ The Seidel library consisted of a fine collection of books, manuscripts, and prints on oriental medicine, in particular, the Arabian,

¹⁸Barkan, op. cit., pp. 294-296:

¹⁹A Speech Given by Dr. Adolph Barkan on December 6, 1922 at the Lane Hospital. (MSS in the Lane Medical Library at Stanford University)

Persian, Syrian and Armenian works. Ancient medical authors were well represented in this collection, and there were a few rare incunabula. The total number of volumes was about 4,500, and the price for the purchase of the entire collection was \$3,750. This library thus formed the nucleus of the section on the history of medicine in the Lane Medical Library.²⁰

On September 1, 1923, the Sutro Library of the California State Library, which had occupied the top level of the Lane Library building, moved to the San Francisco Public Library in Civic Center. The vacated third floor of the Lane Library was then redecorated to house the collection on the history of medicine and the Barkan Library of Ophthalmology and Otology. A new floor of stacks was erected and a room was set aside as a special reference room which provided working space for those engaged in research. The stacks were arranged in such a manner that they formed alcoves, and a

²⁰O'Malley, op. cit., pp. 150-151; Letter to Miss E. Ruth Jones, Librarian of the Medical Society of the City & County of Denver, from Miss Ophuls, dated February 2, 1926. (MSS in the Lane Medical Library at Stanford University)

table and four chairs were placed in each. There was a special locked case for the rare books and manuscripts. In that same year a list of all the books dealing with the history of medicine in the Lane Library was compiled and sent to Professor Sudhoff in order to assist him in the future purchases of books for the collection.²¹

Dr. Barkan returned to San Francisco late in July of 1922 after his travel in Europe. Meanwhile, Professor Karl Sudhoff of Leipzig continued to offer his assistance to the Lane Library in the selection and purchase of material and books for the historical collection.²² In 1924, two shipments of books were received by the library from Professor Sudhoff, who had purchased them in France, England and Germany. During that same year, Dr. Barkan called a meeting in San Francisco of all physicians who were interested in the history of medicine. Tentative plans for the foundation of a society on the

²¹Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1923-1924, p. 230; Lane Medical Library: Section on History of Medicine, 1931. (MSS in Lane Medical Library at Stanford University), pp. 2-3.

²²Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1921-1922, p. 222.

history of medicine were formulated at that meeting, but the society did not materialize.²³

In 1925, the medical librarian reported that the collection of the library had increased to 59,460 volumes, and again owing to the generosity of Dr. Barkan, the library received \$500 for the use of enriching the historical collection. Dr. Barkan, who had since returned to Europe, had expended the above amount in the acquisition of some very rare editions of Vesalius and other early writers.²⁴ Meanwhile, special bookplates for the historical section were made. The design of the bookplates showed the Stanford tree and bore the inscription "History of Medicine and Natural Sciences." The identification "Seidel Collection" was added to bookplates of books belonging to that collection.

In 1927, Dr. Adolph Barkan endowed the section on the history of medicine. The endowment amounted to \$10,000, and the interest from it was to be used for the purchase of old

²³Lane Medical Library: Section on History of Medicine, 1931. (MSS in Lane Library at Stanford University), p. 3.

²⁴Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1924-1925, p. 273.

and rare books and manuscripts. Current publications on historical subjects were not included in this fund; rather they were to be bought from the library's annual appropriation.²⁵ Dr. Barkan also conceived the idea of publishing in each issue of the journal California and Western Medicine a short article on the history of medicine. It was his hope that this would stimulate the interest of the medical profession on the topic. The editor of the journal consented to the project, and articles appeared monthly in the journal under the title "The lure of medical history." To arouse further interest in the history of medicine, Dr. F. L. Reichert, a professor of the medical school, gave weekly seminars for the students. He called those informal meetings "library walks," and each week books pertaining to the period under discussion were placed on exhibition.²⁶

The historical collection at the Lane Medical Library gradually became better known not only to historians in its vicinity, but also to others from afar. In 1929, Dr. and

²⁵Lane Medical Library: Section on History of Medicine, 1931. (MSS in Lane Medical Library at Stanford University), p. 5.

²⁶Ibid., p. 6.

Mrs. Charles Singer and Dr. William H. Welch visited the library and examined the section on the history of medicine. Toward the end of 1931, the classification and cataloging of the collection were completed.²⁷

In the evening of January 11, 1932, the collection on the history of medicine was formally dedicated. The principal speaker at the ceremony was Professor Henry E. Sigerist of the Institute of Medical History in Leipzig. He gave a talk on the relation of history of medicine to practice. The second speaker was Dr. Rixford, who gave a very vivid description of Dr. Adolph Barkan's personality and his work on the Pacific Coast. For the occasion, three exhibition cases were borrowed from the California Academy of Science. They were used in displaying some of the rare books from the collection.²⁸

Since the end of World War I, the increased cost of subscription for medical journals and their binding had placed a burden on the library's annual budget. The librarian found

²⁷Ibid., p. 6.

²⁸Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1931-1932.
(MSS in the Lane Medical Library at Stanford University)

it necessary to revise the periodical subscription list and discontinued journals which were in lesser demand. In 1924, the physicians of San Francisco, realizing that the excellent collection of journals was the library's greatest asset, pledged an annual contribution of \$1,200 for five years for the purchases of periodicals. In the academic year of 1926-1927, the expenditure on subscriptions and binding of journals alone amounted to \$5,500. In 1929, the five-year pledges of the Periodical Fund expired, and other sources of financial aids had to be explored. The Library Committee then decided to conduct a membership drive to increase the annual income of the library. Membership fee was raised to ten dollars a year for individuals, twenty dollars for institutions, and twenty dollars to fifty dollars for patrons. The result was gratifying, for the library gained ninety-five new members, twelve patrons, and four new institutional members. The total amount received at the end of that year was \$1,615.²⁹

The circulation of the library increased markedly. In the statistics of 1930, the record showed a total circulation

²⁹Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1928-1929.

of 12,391, a rise of 30 per cent over the previous year. The Lane Library not only served the students, faculty of the University, and the physicians of San Francisco, but also men in the medical profession living outside of San Francisco, and other smaller libraries of the Pacific Coast. The volume of inter-library loans had increased to such an extent that it was placing the library staff under considerable pressure. Furthermore the number of books and periodicals absent from the library at one time was a serious inconvenience to members of the faculty and students. The director of the University Libraries therefore proposed to apply the Stanford University inter-library loan policies, which were adopted in 1933, to Lane Library. The regulations were intended for all university libraries, but they were never enforced by the medical library. The change included a service charge of fifty cents for single volume and twenty-five cents for each additional volume in a single shipment.³⁰

³⁰Annual Report of the Director, Stanford University Libraries, 1929-1930, p. 35; Minutes of the Library Committee of Lane Medical Library, October 24, 1939.

By 1944, the Lane Medical Library numbered over 103,000 volumes in its collection. The library, like any institutional or public libraries, was continually faced with the problem of missing volumes. The losses of irreplaceable books and periodicals were so serious that the director of the University Libraries had to restrict access to the stacks except for staff members. A petition was signed by eighty-seven medical students in 1944 requesting from the librarian the privilege of access to stack rooms and current periodicals. The request was denied, for the director of libraries felt that the losses had impeded the work of staff, students, medical officers of the Army and Navy, and local physicians who were members of the Lane Medical Library. The closed stack policy had lessened the library's losses, and for the time being it was the only solution to the problem. However, when Miss Clara Manson became the medical librarian of the library in 1948, the users of the library were once again granted the privilege of direct access to the stacks.³¹

³¹ Minutes of the Library Committee of Lane Medical Library, November 1, 1948.

Miss Manson also inaugurated the students orientation tour of the library. Previously to that no provision had been made to explain the use of the library to new students. The librarian personally escorted the students in groups of fifteen around the library. She introduced them to the uses of indexes, various bibliographical aids, and to the organization of the contents of the library. The program was a success, for considerable interest was shown not only by new students, but by the older students as well who did not go through this type of initiation. Some of them even joined the tours.³²

In 1948, Professor Charles D. O'Malley was appointed to the position of the Director of the Department of History of Medicine and Natural Sciences of the Lane Library. Professor O'Malley had done extensive work on the history of science, and his knowledge of the bibliography of the history of medicine made him highly qualified for the position. His responsibilities were to recommend to the librarian book purchases needed for developing the history collection, to arrange for

³²Minutes of the Library Committee of the Lane Medical Library, January 8, 1949.

the preparation and publication of bibliographies in areas related to the history of medicine, and to stimulate and assist research work being carried on in the collection.³³

Special projects were conducted in connection with the historical collection. Professor O'Malley reported on one of them as follows:

There is at present under way a short title catalogue of the historical collection which upon completion will give for the first time a proper understanding of the great wealth of the collection. Looking farther ahead it is hoped that this catalogue will then make possible more detailed studies of some of the notable subdivisions of the historical library in particular the holdings in Islamic science, both manuscript and printed books and the very important collection on the history of ophthalmology.³⁴

After eleven years as the director of the history of medicine and natural sciences collection, Professor O'Malley resigned in 1959. Dr. Arthur L. Bloomfield, Emeritus Professor of Medicine of the Medical School and a benefactor of the

³³Letter to Miss Clara Manson, Librarian of the Lane Medical Library, from Mr. R. C. Swank, Director of University Libraries, September 29, 1948.

³⁴Annual Report of Lane Medical Library, 1948-1949, p. 5.

library, was appointed to that position which he held until his death in 1962.³⁵

The library began providing limited bibliographic services in 1949 for the heads of departments of the Medical School and for members of their staffs. Requests on specific research topics were sent by the faculty to the librarian, and she in turn kept the instructors and researchers informed of articles in the current literature which were pertinent to their research projects.³⁶

In 1951, the librarian checked the foreign periodical subscriptions of the library against those of the University of California Medical Library and the Stanford University Library. Plans were made to eliminate a few of the rarer items that were duplicated in either of the two libraries and to subscribe to other rare titles not in libraries on the West Coast.³⁷ Extensive cooperation existed between the Lane

³⁵Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1959-1960; News item in the Palo Alto Times, July 5, 1962.

³⁶Letter from the Library Committee announcing bibliographic services, October 19, 1949.

³⁷Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1950-1951.

Library and the University of California Medical Library because of the close proximity of the two libraries. The latter specialized to a far greater extent in public health materials, whereas the former placed its emphases in the fields of eye, ear, nose, and throat. They limited their purchases in these fields so as not to duplicate each other. The only major duplications by the libraries were materials needed by medical students and research materials to which physicians in both institutions demanded immediate access.³⁸

Though the Lane Library was not a formal institution in the training of medical librarians, time and again in the past the librarian had been very generous in offering such services to libraries which requested her assistance. The Permanente Foundation in 1951 utilized the Lane Library as a training place for its new librarian. Miss Manson recorded that, "Miss Fong spent ten days of rather intensive practical training here before she added the work of 'librarian' to her regular secretarial work there."³⁹ In 1955, the library had

³⁸Lois Bowers, et al., "A Survey of the Lane Medical Library, May 10, 1951" (MSS in the Lane Medical Library at Stanford University), pp. 2-4.

³⁹Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1950-1951.

another trainee when the medical librarian of the University of Indonesia came to the United States to observe medical library activities. She spent about a month at Lane Medical Library and received extensive training in cataloging.⁴⁰ There were other visiting librarians who came to the library from various parts of the world as well as librarians from the vicinity of San Francisco.

In 1954, the director of the University Libraries wrote in his annual report:

When the decision ultimately to move the Medical School from San Francisco to the Palo Alto campus was announced, considerable interest was generated in the possibility of building a new bio-medical library center to house not only the Lane Medical Library but also the basic collections in biology, anatomy, bacteriology, and possibly other related sciences. It was conceived that such a center might be constructed on the corner opposite the biology corner of the present quadrangle . . . a site that lies between the Biology Department and the proposed site of the Medical School. Preliminary explorations of this possibility were conducted with the interested faculties . . .⁴¹

A general science library would bridge the gap between the medical library and other branches of the University. It

⁴⁰Monthly Report of the Lane Medical Library, October-November, 1955.

⁴¹Report of the Director of University Libraries for the Year Ending August 31, 1954, p. 4.

would provide a meeting place for the departments in the different fields of science. However, the idea had to be abandoned because any site for such a building involved distances between the library and the University departments to be included which were unacceptable to these departments. The Library Committee of the Lane Library agreed that it was essential to construct the new medical library at a site where it would not be too distant from the medical school and from those who were to use its facilities.⁴²

Meanwhile, when it was decided to move the Lane Medical Library to the Stanford campus, the California State Library showed interest in the old library building at Sacramento and Webster Street for the use of housing the Sutro Library. In 1959, it was decided that the Sutro Library would not be housed there because the building was still a property of Stanford University. The library building, together with the Stanford Hospital in San Francisco, was later sold to the Presbyterian Medical Group.⁴³

⁴²Minutes of the Library Committee of the Lane Medical Library, November 29, 1955.

⁴³Minutes of the Library Committee of the Lane Medical Library, September 29, 1958; April 27, 1959.

Early in May of 1957, the future of Lane Medical Library on the Stanford campus began to take shape on the drawing boards. The architect in charge was Mr. Lloyd Flood with Mr. Carl Treffenfer as his assistant. The bids for the building were let in December of 1957, and in February of the following year construction began. The library was located in the Center Building of the medical complex and occupied approximately 35,000 square feet in a two-story building. It was built around a courtyard of sixty feet by eighty feet.⁴⁴

The actual moving of the library from San Francisco to the Stanford campus was begun on August 31, 1959; however, preparation for the move took place as early as January of that year. By 1959, the library numbered over 160,000 bound volumes, and an elaborate system had to be developed to insure that during the process of moving, none of the books would be misplaced or lost. Books, boxes, ranges and shelves had to be carefully identified, and the librarian, Miss Manson, and her staff spent hours tagging and marking them. The following described the amount of work involved in the transfer of the library and the identification system used:

⁴⁴Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1957-1958.

. . . Each shelf in the old library was marked with a strip of heavy colored paper. A self adhesive colored label was stapled to each strip. The number of the new range and of the shelf, to which that old shelf was assigned, was written on the strip and on the label. Thus when the movers came, there was a colored strip for the inside of each box and for the outside. A record was kept of the assignments in case there was confusion during the move . . . Only the books from one shelf were packed in each box. This meant some boxes were not packed tightly, but the amount of time saved by using this method resulted in saving hours of time . . . Only volumes published earlier than 1850 were wrapped separately and packed with extra care.

The use of colors facilitated the packing, in as much as the movers could roam through the old building and know at a glance which shelves should be packed on which day, and the men at Stanford knew exactly to which floor and which area each box should be sent.⁴⁵

The modern twenty-two million dollar Medical Center on the Stanford campus also incorporated the new Palo Alto City Hospital. On December 11, 1957, the proposal of offering the services of the Lane Medical Library to the medical staff of the hospital was discussed at the Library Committee meeting. On May 26, 1958 Dr. E. W. Fredel, representing the Palo Alto Hospital, stated in his letter to the Library Committee that the medical staff of the hospital had decided to pay an annual fee of fifteen dollars per person toward the support

⁴⁵Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1958-1959.

of the Lane Library in return for the services received. As a result the annual financial support from the hospital amounted to over \$5,000 and the fund was given to the library without any stipulations. The Library Committee then decided that the sum would be used for various purposes on the same bases as library expenses as a whole.⁴⁶

The librarian noted that since the move of the library to the Medical Center, the circulation of the books had expanded. There were fewer inter-library loans because the library had removed itself from San Francisco and also because of the expedient services offered by the National Library of Medicine to its inter-library loan clientele. The number of users had increased compared to previous years, but at the same time the library was plagued with the problem of books disappearing in quantities. However, it was a relief to the librarian that many of them were returned at the end of the school year. Thus, the library began a new era of its history on the Stanford campus.⁴⁷

⁴⁶Minutes of the Library Committee of the Lane Medical Library, December 11, 1957; Monthly Report of the Lane Medical Library, May-June, 1958; Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1959-1960.

⁴⁷Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1959-1960.



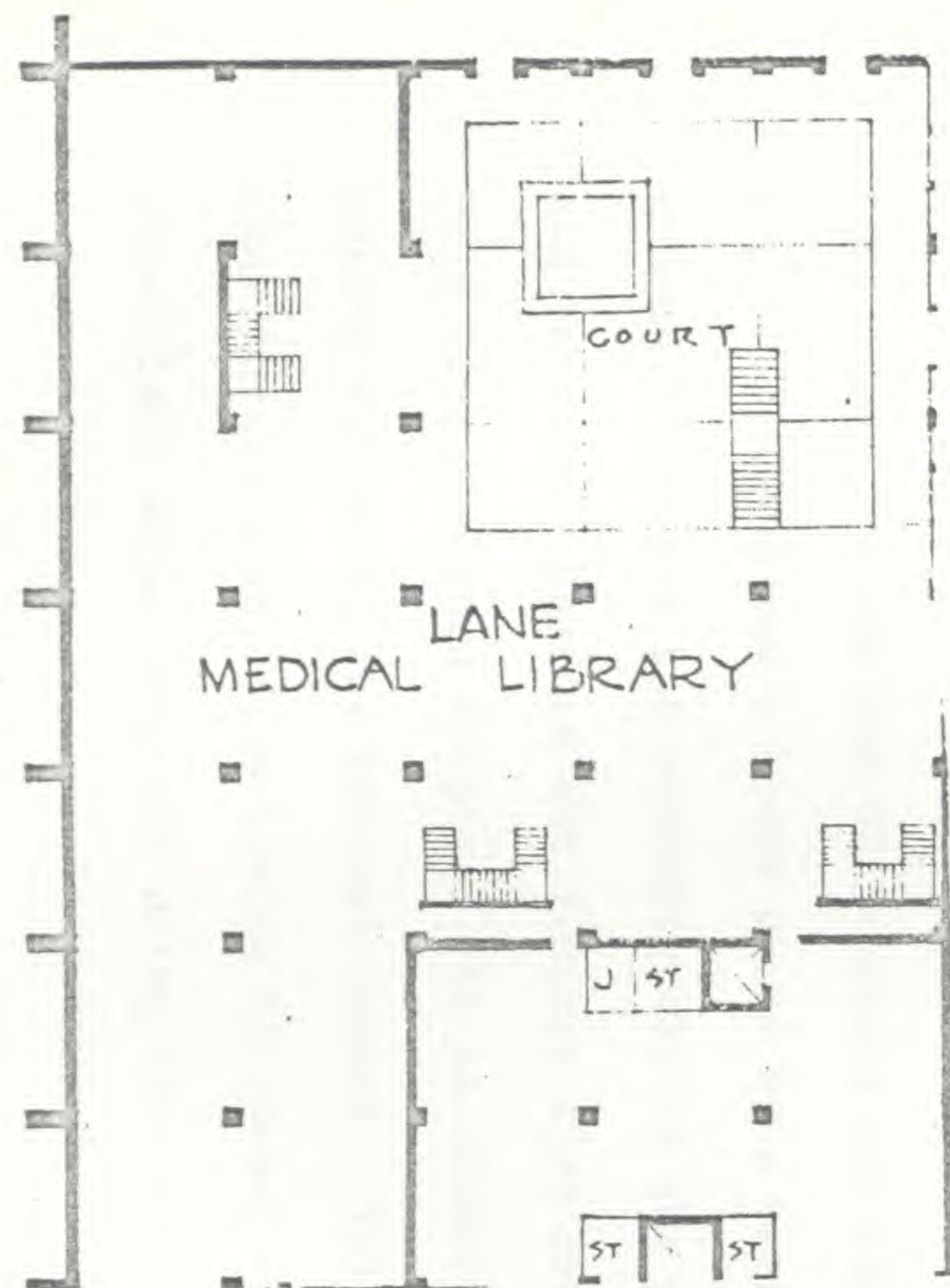
Fig.4. Lane Medical Library, Palo Alto.

CHAPTER V

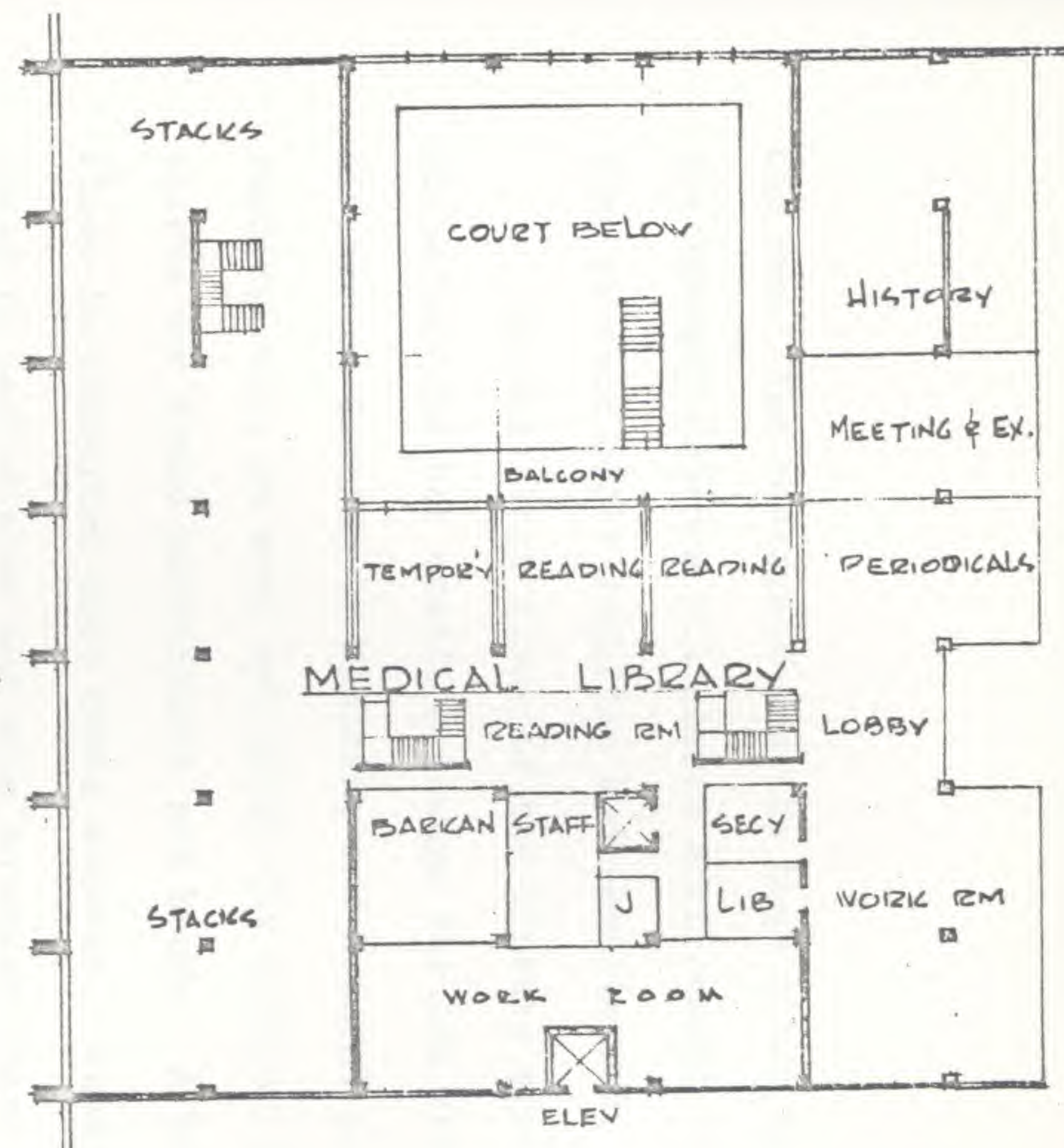
THE ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE LIBRARY, 1959 - 1967

The Stanford Medical Center lies on a forty-acre site of the Stanford University campus, which is located northwest of the Physics Corner between the Chemistry Building and Willow Road. The Center, as previously mentioned, includes the Stanford School of Medicine and the combined Palo Alto-Stanford Hospitals. The building was constructed with reinforced concrete, colored and heavily textured to harmonize with existing campus structures. Open courtyards and covered walks accentuate the well designed complex.

The Lane Medical Library is located in the Levi Cooper Lane Building of the Medical Center. The approach to the library from the Center's main entrance is impressive. The library occupies two levels - the ground floor and the first floor. It is built around a landscaped courtyard. There is a staircase which leads from the courtyard to the first floor balcony of the library. Chairs are provided on the balcony as well as in the courtyard for students who prefer to study in



Ground Floor



First Floor

Fig. 5. Floor Plan of Lane Medical Library, Palo Alto.

the sun. The courtyard and the huge glass panel windows of the library enhance its placid environment and at the same time provide ample lighting and ventilation.

On the first floor of the library are offices of the librarian and her staff, a lounge for the staff, the Barkan Library of History of Medicine and Natural Sciences and its reading room, an area set aside for current journals, and stacks for bound periodicals and books. A part of the first floor is converted into three alcoves. Study tables are provided in each alcove and also in areas where space permits.

The ground floor provides one large room with no partitions to separate one section from the other. Broad reading tables as well as individual study tables are also furnished on this level for the use of students and readers in the library. A public phone and a house phone have been installed on the ground floor for the conveniences of the physicians, residents, and interns. Because the library also serve the staff of the Palo Alto-Stanford Hospital, it is connected to the general paging system of the Medical Center. This arrangement relieves the library staff from having to answer telephone calls for physicians while they are using the resources of the library.

The ground level of the library is the only area where smoking is permitted.

Since 1960, the Lane Medical Library has come under the jurisdiction of the Stanford School of Medicine. The medical librarian reports directly to the Dean of the Medical School instead of to the Director of the University Libraries. The budget of the library is appropriated by the Medical School.¹ The expenditure of the library as recorded in its Annual Report of 1965-1966 was approximately \$156,600. The amount for purchases of books and journals was \$44,692; \$86,138 was spent for salaries; the remainder was used for binding of books and other miscellaneous expenditures.²

The library has four professional librarians, which include the head librarian, the reference librarian and two catalogers. There are six non-professional full-time staff members and a group of part-time workers. The latter are mostly students who assist in shelving, checking out books, and other clerical work. They are equivalent to five and a half full-time staff.

¹Statement by Miss Clara Manson, personal interview.

²Annual Report of the Lane Medical Library, 1965-1966.

In 1966, the library collection numbered over 189,566 volumes. The library subscribes regularly to 2,232 journals, and about a third of these are obtained through gifts and exchanges.³ The library, in actuality, may be divided into two collections. One is devoted to the pursuit of contemporary research and practice of medicine, while the other is devoted to the history of medicine and natural sciences. The former is the larger of the two collections, and the materials are in far greater demand than the latter.

The Barkan Library of the History of Medicine and Natural Sciences, commonly known as the historical collection, is at present under the direction of Dr. L. Rather. He advises the librarian on the purchases of books for the collection. Other additions to the collection are made through gifts and from the current collection which has assumed historical value. Approximately one half of the books of this special library are on open shelves while the remainder are kept in the locked stack area. The materials in the latter consist of irreplaceable and valuable manuscripts, books, and incunabula. They are made accessible to users only upon requests and in

³Ibid.

most cases their uses are generally confined in the library. Adjacent to the stacks of the historical collection is a reading room where study tables are furnished for students and researchers using the collection. Rare books and manuscripts from the library's collection are displayed regularly in the locked exhibit cases located in the reading room. The exhibition is an attempt to attract the interest of students and other users in the field of history of medicine. There appears to be little use, according to Miss Manson, of this special library. Students seem not to appreciate this fine historical collection.⁴ In the following, the importance of the collection was succinctly summed up by its former director, Professor O'Malley,

. . . the collection is much more than merely one dealing with history of medicine, that is the history of of single profession. Rather, it is a great library devoted to a very important aspect of civilization, most important for the period of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. It is a record of man's efforts to throw off the shackles of authority and superstition and to inquire, investigate and freely employ his own independent reasoning powers. The results of such efforts we all know, but the dramatic struggle which lies behind the present (and all too frequently taken for granted), the

⁴Statement by Miss Clara Manson, personal interview.

debt that is owed to daring thinkers and investigators of the past and the continuous progression and advance are all there to be read.⁵

In the general collection of the Lane Library over one half consists of periodical literature. Books and about four hundred selected popular journals which are published within the recent ten years are shelved on the first floor where they may be readily accessible to the users. Books that are more than nine years old, except for those shelved with the historical collection, are placed in the stacks on the ground floor, and bound journals beginning with IN through Z which are over ten years old may also be found on this level. In previous years, due to the Barkan endowment funds set aside for the purchase of books in the fields of ophthalmology and otolaryngology, the library had placed special emphasis on these subjects, however, this is no longer true, for in recent years the library has attempted to maintain a well balanced collection and has acquired all the standard works in the field of medicine and allied sciences.⁶ The increase in circulation

⁵Charles D. O'Malley, "The Barkan Library of the History of Medicine and Natural Science Books," Stanford Medical Bulletin, IX (August, 1951), p. 155.

⁶Statement by Miss Clara Manson, personal interview.

and the great demand for some popular journals make it necessary for the library to keep a collection of second copies. These journals are unbound and are arranged alphabetically in the stacks on the first level. They may be checked out of the library for home use.

Acquisition of books depends heavily on the requests and suggestions of the Medical School's department heads, faculty and users of the library. Since the move of the library to Stanford, it was no longer feasible for the Lane Library to cooperate with the University of California Medical Library in its purchase of books. The distance between the two libraries has made it essential for each library to have a complete and well balanced collection of its own. The ordering of books for the Lane Library is done by the Stanford University Main Library. The Medical Library in turn pays 3 per cent of the book cost to the Main Library for handling orders and bookkeeping.⁷ The librarians of the Lane Library assume the responsibilities of cataloging all the new books. Binding of journals and other materials is done by a commercial firm.

⁷Ibid.

The classification used by the library is a modification of the Library of Congress Classification. An alphabet has been assigned to the Classes Q and R and their subdivisions. In the Lane Library's scheme an alphabet is arbitrarily assigned, but whenever possible, care has been taken to give an initial which will correspond to the initial letter of a particular subject field. For example, A is for Anatomy, H for History and P for Pediatrics. The copyright date of the volume is also added to the modified Library of Congress notation, and it becomes part of the call number. This addition assists the users in identifying at a glance the recency of the publication and its edition. The bound periodicals are not classified, but they are arranged alphabetically by title or corporate entry.

The library has two card catalogs - a general catalog for the library's entire collection and one which is devoted to the historical collection. The general catalog is arranged alphabetically by author, title, and subject. Occasionally, when an obscure topic which the users frequently requested materials on and yet is not listed in the Index Medicus or other bibliographical aids, a special subject heading is then

incorporated into the catalog and analytics are made for this topic. The card catalog for the historical section is located in the collection's reading room. The two types of arrangement in this catalog facilitate the readers in their search for materials. One section is filed alphabetically by author, title, and subject. The other section is arranged chronologically according to the date of publication.

The services of the Lane Medical Library are free to all students, faculty, and staff members connected with Stanford University or hospital. The medical staff of the Palo Alto Hospital pays the library an annual fee of fifteen dollars per person for the use of the library resources. Physicians in the Palo Alto area who are not connected with Stanford may use the materials in the library without charge; however, if they wish to borrow books for outside uses they have to pay an annual membership fee of twenty-five dollars per person. Books and periodicals are checked out for a two-week period and renewal may be made in person or by phone. Books that are in great demand are put on reserve and they may be checked out only for overnight use. Until October, 1967 no library fines were charged for overdues, and at the

end of each quarter students were requested to return all books borrowed from the library on a set date. Beginning in October, 1967, fines are charged for all overdue books.

Lane Library receives a number of requests for inter-library loans from libraries, medical societies, and users outside the area. There is no charge for such services to academic institutions, but an annual fee of fifty dollars is charged by the library when non-academic institutions request services. The number of inter-library loans in 1966 was approximately five thousand. When a request comes for a journal which does not circulate the library provides photocopy of the article requested for the clientele.⁸

A friendly atmosphere pervades the Lane Library. The librarian and her staff make every effort to serve their clientele efficiently and cooperatively. They are always on hand to assist the library users in locating certain books or various other information, and with their assistance the users are made to realize the excellent resources in the library and its fine potentialities.

⁸Statement by Miss Clara Manson, personal interview.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

As a room on the fourth floor of the Cooper Medical College lined with almost empty bookcases the Lane Medical Library established its roots and flourished to become one of the largest medical libraries on the West Coast.

In the beginning, gifts and donations of books constituted the nuclei of the library's collection. As the medical education gradually progressed and emphasis shifted to research, it became possible for the college to allocate funds to the library for the purchase of books and journals. A library committee was set up to assist in the administration and supervision of the library. A full-time librarian was hired to direct the library instead of leaving the collection in the hands of custodians or part-time personnel. In a little over ten years the collection became so large that it was necessary to build a separate building to house the library. The rapid progress of the library was no doubt due to the generous devotion of the time and energy of its librarians and faculty to the betterment of the library.

This thesis has attempted to depict the successive stages of library growth of the Lane Medical Library. There was a continuous struggle for room to house the expanding collections, for financial support and for increase of library personnel. From a collection of a handful of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and standard works the library resources were enlarged into a collection consisting of current medical periodicals in English and foreign languages as well as incunabula, and rare books and manuscripts in the history of medicine and allied fields.

In the history of the Lane Medical Library it can be concluded that there were three main factors which were responsible for its growth: (1) the zeal of the faculty in enlarging the collection and in instilling in their students the importance of research and keeping abreast with the latest scientific methods and discoveries; (2) the increase in the publication of medical literature, especially of journals and bibliographic indexes; (3) the demand placed upon the library by students and staff. All these were vital influences in the library's growth and they in turn reflected the important function of the library in medical education and research programs.

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